

Abstract

Manipulation with the course or with the result of sports competitions and its criminal law assessment

Presented thesis is concerned with the issue of manipulation of sports competitions. It's pivotal task is to evaluate whether current criminal law legislation provides effective provisions for the prosecution of those who manipulate with the course or with the final outcome of sports events.

Although this negative phenomenon is not utterly new, in fact some of its forms are almost as old as the sport itself, in recent years the severity of this threat has grown rapidly. Modern era has opened up a wide range of brand new possibilities for fixers while sports associations and states were simply unprepared for such peril.

Especially betting-motivated manipulation of sports competitions, thanks to its global nature and involvement of betting criminal organizations poses a serious challenge for law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, throughout the thesis the author puts forward an examples demonstrating the permanent presence of another elemental form of manipulation in sports environment – the one which is motivated by achieving of sports results. Although forms of manipulation in sport may differ, what they have in common is that usually all of them represents the threat not only to the integrity of sport but also to typical values protected by criminal law.

The thesis is systematically divided into four main chapters. Chapter one is focused on the interaction of legal provisions and sports norms with the emphasis on the role of criminal law and its interference into sports environment. Second chapter provides the reader with the brief history of manipulation of sports competitions, defines the crucial terms and discover the methods of those who manipulate with sports events. Third chapter is devoted to the criminal law assessment of manipulation in sport. Whilst in the Czech Republic bribery related provisions are crucial for prosecution of manipulation in sport, legal framework of European Union countries is far from uniform in that respect as chapter subsequently demonstrates. Final chapter points out two current cases in front of the courts in Czech Republic before stressing

out the shortcomings of current legislation and making recommendations de lege ferenda.